

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 9-19.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

Firstly, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-8. However, for reasons set forth below, it is considered that all of the claims in this application are now in condition for allowance.

Previous claim 1 has been replaced by new claim 9, wherein N is defined as a lanthanoid element, per original claim 6.

Further, the phrase "linked and supported on a polymer film" is rewritten as --said Lewis acid group being bonded to a polymeric chain--.

This amendment is fully supported by the specification and claims, e.g. previous claim 5. It is responsive to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 questioning whether the catalyst is bonded to a polymer molecule of the previously recited polymer film.

Thus, new claim 9 is clearly free from the rejections against previous claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claim 10 replaces previous claim 2 and is rewritten in independent form. Further, new claim 10 corrects an obvious error in previous claim 2, in that the subscript "n" should be rewritten as "n-1", since n is the valence of M and M is bonded to X and R⁰.

Similar amendments to claim 9 have been made.

The foregoing amendments are responsive to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, as well as the objection to previous claim 2 as being in improper dependent form.

Previous claims 11-13 replace original claims 3-5, respectively.

The above amendment clarifies the antecedent basis for the term "polymer chain" appearing in previous claim 5.

There is no present counterpart to claim 6 in view of the above amendment to claim 1 incorporating the subject matter of claim 6 therein.

New claims 14 and 15 replace previous claim 7.

New claims 16 and 17 replace previous claim 8.

New claims 18 and 19 are newly added, further defining X. Support is evident from page 5, lines 2-5 of the specification.

Previous claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harmer et al. (U.S. 6,034,290).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

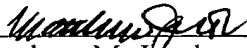
Harmer discloses a porous microcomposite comprising a perfluorinated ion-exchange polymer that contains metal cation exchanged sulfonic acid groups wherein the metal cation is a complex of Cr, Sn, Al, Fe, Os, Co, Zn, Hg, Li, Na, Cu, Pd, or Ru and the use of lanthanoid elements is neither disclosed nor suggested.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Shu KOBAYASHI

By: 
Matthew M. Jacob
Registration No. 25,154
Attorney for Applicant

MJ/da
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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